











PREFERRED LANGUAGE ABOUT HIV



Language is really important when we talk about HIV.

It's important to model the use of appropriate language.

Below is a list of some problematic phrases and what they can be replaced with.

Don't Say 	Say 	Don't Say 	Say 
HIV-infected person/ HIV or AIDS patient 	First person language such as: Person living with HIV 	Became infected/ To catch HIV 	Contracted or acquired HIV/ Diagnosed with HIV 
AIDS (when referring to the virus, HIV) 	HIV is not the same thing as AIDS. AIDS means a group of illnesses you get when your immune system hasn't been working properly for a long time. Use HIV and AIDS (when referring to both.) 	To catch AIDS/ To contract AIDS/ Transmit AIDS 	AIDS is a diagnosis and cannot be passed from one person to the next Use An AIDS diagnosis/ Developed AIDS 
Full-blown AIDS 	There is no medical definition for this phrase. Use the term AIDS/ Stage 3 HIV 	"Tainted" blood/ "Dirty" needles 	Blood containing HIV/ Shared needles 
		Died of AIDS/ To die of AIDS 	Died of AIDS-related illness/ AIDS-related complications/ End-stage HIV 



For a longer language checklist visit: www.thewellproject.org/hiv-information/why-language-matters-facing-hiv-stigma-our-own-words